



PETROICA ERYTHROGASTER.

*J. Gould del.*

*Hulton-Deutsch & Walton imp.*

## PETROICA ERYTHROGASTRA.

### Norfolk Island Robin.

*Muscicapa erythrogastra*, Lath. Ind. Orn., vol. ii. p. 479.—Gmel. Syst. Nat., vol. i. p. 944.

———— *multicolor*, Gmel. Syst. Nat., vol. i. p. 944.

*Red-bellied Flycatcher*, Lath. Gen. Syn., vol. iii. p. 343. pl. 50.—Ib. Supp., vol. ii. p. 216.—Shaw, Gen. Zool., vol. x. p. 400. pl. 32.—Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. vi. p. 209. pl. C.—Shaw, Nat. Misc., pl. 147.

*Petroica pulchella*, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part VII. p. 142, male.

———— *modesta*, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part V. p. 147, female.

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I HAVE been induced to give a figure of this Robin, which I believe to be strictly confined to Norfolk Island, in order to clear up the confusion which has hitherto existed respecting it and the *Petroica multicolor*, with which it has been confounded. Under the impression that the two birds were identical, and that the terms *erythrogastra* and *multicolor* were synonymous, I was induced some years ago to characterize the male of the present bird under the name of *pulchella*, and the female under that of *modesta*, believing as I then did that it was a distinct species; subsequent research has however enabled me to perceive the errors into which I had fallen, and I now proceed to point out the differences between the two species, and to restore to the Norfolk Island bird the term *erythrogastra*, originally applied to it by Latham. The *P. erythrogastra* may be distinguished then from its near ally by the greater size of the bill; by the greater extent and more silvery hue of the white feathers on the forehead; by the tail being wholly black, while in the *P. multicolor* the lateral feathers are white; by the white on the wing forming a large spot near the shoulder, instead of a line as long as the secondaries; and by the scarlet of the breast and abdomen being much more intense in colour: the females of the two birds also differ from each other, the tail of the *P. erythrogastra* being wholly brown, while that of the *P. multicolor* has the lateral tail-feathers marked with white.

The male has the forehead silvery white; a small patch on the wings near the shoulder, under wing-coverts, the flanks and under tail-coverts white; chest and abdomen very rich scarlet, the remainder of the plumage deep black; bill black; feet brown.

The female has the crown of the head, all the upper surface, wings and tail reddish brown; throat white, tinged with brown; chest and centre of the abdomen washed with scarlet; lower part of the abdomen and under tail-coverts white; flanks brown; bill blackish brown; feet yellowish brown.

The figures represent the two sexes of the natural size.